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Department of State TELEGRAM

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CIVAIR

1. ALITALIA'S VENTURINI IN LONG RECEPTION TALK WITH EMBOFF EMPHASIZED HIS CONCERN AT DELAYS IN WRAPPING UP BASES FOR BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS IN CURRENT SERIES INFORMAL TALKS. CONCERNING WHICH HE WAS UNUSUALLY OPTIMISTIC. WHEN EMBOFFI DREW ON STATE 174914 TO UNDERLINE US GOOD INTENTIONS AND DESIRE TO HAVE EXCELLENT AND DEFENSIBLE STATISTICS, VENTURINI SAID HE WAS NOT RPT NOT CONCERNED THAT US WAS STALLING. NEVERTHELESS, HE FEARED THAT ORTONA'S HOLIDAY, FOLLOWED BY AUGUST LULL AND UNPREDICTABLE RUSH OF AFFAIRS IN EARLY FALL MIGHT SO POSTPONE COMPLETION OF INFORMAL PHASE AND MOVE TO BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AS TO JEOPARDIZE COMPLETION OF LATTER UNTIL, SAY, NEXT FEBRUARY. THIS WOULD NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE ALITALIA ADEQUATE TIME TO PLAN EXPLOITATION OF NEW ROUTES IN 1969 SUMMER SCHEDULES.

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2. VENTURINI HOPED WE WOULD DO UTMOST TO ARRANGE SESSION WITH SANTINI FROM JUNE 18 TO 21 SO THAT SOLOMON COULD HAVE "FINAL MEETING" WITH ORTONA BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE. HE EXPRESSED GREAT CONFIDENCE IN ORTONA AND SOLOMON AS FRANK AND KNOWLEDGEABLE NEGOTIATORS, SAYING HE THOUGHT RESULT COULD BE REACHED WHICH WOULD LEAVE EVERYONE SATISFIED IF NOT RPT NOT HAPPY.

3. ON STATISTICAL EXERCISE, VENTURINI SHOWED SLIGHT DISDAIN BECAUSE OF THREE DIFFERENT APPROACHES AND SIMILAR COMPLICATIONS, BUT DID NOT RPT NOT OBJECT TO SEEING IT THROUGH NOR ATTEMPT TO EVADE CONSEQUENCES OF STATISTICAL ANALYSIS.

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